

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 10, 13 and 14 stand rejected under §103 on the basis of the admitted prior art, Shimada et al. '829, and Ono et al. '471. Dependent claim 8 stands rejected under §103 on the basis of the admitted prior art, Shimada et al., Ono et al., and Matsuoka et al. '958. Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify there is a liquid crystal layer between the first and second opposing electrodes, and Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Examiner recognizes that the admitted prior art lacks disclosure of a first electrode and second electrode connected to a common voltage, wherein the liquid crystal display panel is a normally-black liquid crystal panel. The Examiner relies on Ono to assert *prima facie* obviousness. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Ono discloses a normally black liquid crystal display device having a first opposing electrode (CT) surrounding a pixel electrode (PX), and a second opposing electrode (CT) overlapping the pixel electrode (PX) (see Fig. 28 of Ono et al.). The first pixel electrode and the second pixel electrode are formed on the same substrate at the same level. Further, with the construction of Ono, there is a gap between the first opposing electrode and the second opposing electrode, and the liquid crystal layer corresponding to such a gap region controls the transmission of light. This means that the liquid crystal display device does not provide "permanent" black representation as in the frame area of the present invention. Further, the construction of Fig. 28 of Ono is not for the frame area but for the display area of

the liquid crystal display device.

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite that there is a liquid crystal layer between the first and second opposing electrodes. Due to the foregoing difference of construction, and because of the difference in the operational principle that Ono does not provide a "permanent" black representation in the frame area, applicants request withdrawal of this rejection.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner should call Applicants' attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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